REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-7, 11 and 19 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 11 are amended and Claim 19 is added by the present response. Support for additions to the claims can be found in disclosure as originally filed, for example on page 19, line 21 to page 20, line 7. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3-7 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Cocotis et al (U.S. Patent Publication No. 20030078965, herein Cocotis) in view of Miller et al (U.S. Patent Publication No. 20020023959, herein Miller) and further in view of Parry (U.S. Patent No. 7,075,668) and Shea (U.S. Pat. No. 7,123,376) and Wong et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,580,490, herein "Wong").

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1, 3-7 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Cocotis, Miller, Parry, Shea and Wong, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites, in part,

> ...the printing management server includes:
> a receiving unit, which receives a printing request of an electronic file, via said network;
> an identification pattern generating unit, which generates identification patterns, including information concerning a storing place of the electronic file and information concerning a printing condition of the electronic file, based on the received printing request of the electronic file, the printing condition including at least one of a sheet size, a printing quantity, a black and white/color printing selection, a reduction ratio and a quantity of pages N, the quantity of pages N corresponding to the number of pages to be placed on a single page in N-up printing; and
> a sending unit, which sends back said identification pattern to the user terminal, via said network, and
> the printing apparatus includes:
> a reading unit, which reads said identification pattern output by the user terminal;

> an electronic file obtaining unit, which obtains an electronic file from said electronic file management server, via said network, based on the read identification pattern and extracts information concerning the printing condition of the electronic file from said identification pattern; and
>
> a printing unit, which prints the obtained electronic file based on the extracted information concerning the printing condition.

Cocotis describes a system for printing over a network. However, Coctis does not describe or suggest an identification pattern generating unit, which generates identification patterns, including information concerning a storing place of the electronic file and information concerning a printing condition of the electronic file, based on the received printing request of the electronic file, the printing condition including at least one of a sheet size, a printing quantity, a black and white/color printing selection, a reduction ratio and a quantity of pages N, the quantity of pages N corresponding to the number of pages to be placed on a single page in N-up printing.

Further, Cocotis does not describe or suggest a sending unit, which sends back said identification pattern to the user terminal, via said network.

In addition, Cocotis does not describe or suggest a printing apparatus that includes a reading unit, an electronic file obtaining unit and a printing unit as recited in Claim 1.

With regard to the identification pattern generating unit, the outstanding Action asserts on pages 3-4 that "Cocotis discloses wherein an identification information generating unit, which generates identification information, including information concerning a storing place of the electronic file based on the received printing request of the electronic file. (Cocotis para 154, ll 8-10; para 158, ll1-9; storage for file)." Further, the outstanding Action acknowledges that Cocotis does not disclose generating identification patterns and thus the outstanding Action cites Miller, which discloses a "bar code", as curing the deficiencies of Cocotis. Specifically, the outstanding Action states on page 4, "document processing, barcode representation linked to identification information."

However, Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion and submit that the combination of Cocotis and Miller does not describe or render obvious the identification pattern generating unit at least because this combination does not generate identification patterns, including information concerning a storing place of the electronic file and information concerning a printing condition of the electronic file, based on the received printing request of the electronic file.

Specifically, Cocotis never discloses generating "identification information" including information concerning a storing place of the electronic file and information concerning a printing condition of the electronic file, based on the received printing request of the electronic file.

The outstanding Action cites paragraphs 154 and 158 as disclosing this feature, however, these portions of Cocotis never describe this feature. Instead paragraph 154 of Cocotis merely describes searching the root message center to discover public output resources such as public printers. Further, paragraph 158 describes that the Message Center gathers the data for executing a job request either from a remote source or from the local source such as a data storage in the Message Center and sends this gathered data to an output device, such as a printer.

Cocotis never in any way discloses generating "identification information" including ***information concerning a storing place of the electronic file*** and ***information concerning a printing condition of the electronic file***, based on the received printing request of the electronic file.

Moreover, this "identification information" is never described as being sent back to the user terminal via said network. Thus, the combination of Cocotis and Miller does not describe or suggest a sending unit, which sends back said identification pattern to the user terminal, via said network.

The outstanding Action states on page 3 that paragraph 206, lines 7-12 of Cocotis describes this feature. Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion. Specifically, paragraph 206 of Cocotis describes that the message center sends document data to a print service. The print service then transmits a print completion notice back to the message center which forwards the message to the print requester. However, this portion of Cocotis never describes that an identification pattern or "identification information" that includes information concerning a storing place of the electronic file and information concerning a printing condition of the electronic file is sent to the user terminal. This feature is simply not disclosed in Cocotis.

Moreover, Cocotis does not describe or suggest a printing apparatus that includes a reading unit, an electronic file obtaining unit and a printing unit as recited in Claim 1.

Specifically, the reading unit recited in Claim 1 reads the identification pattern output by the user terminal which was sent to the user terminal from the printing management server.

The outstanding Action asserts that paragraph 158 of Cocotis discloses this feature, however, this portion of Cocotis in no way discloses that an identification pattern or "identification information" which was received by the user terminal from the printing management server is output by the user terminal and thus read by a printing apparatus. This is simply not disclosed in Cocotis.

By configuring the system as is done in the claimed invention, several advantages are realized. For example, the claimed invention is able to perform printing of a document using a user terminal with a relatively small storage capacity. Such an advantage is not realized by the system disclosed in the combination of Cocotis and Miller.

In addition, as is acknowledged on pages 4-5, the combination of Cocotis and Miller does not describe or suggest that the printing condition includes at least one of a sheet size, a printing quantity, a black and white/color printing selection, a reduction ratio and a quantity of pages N, the quantity of pages N corresponding to the number of pages to be placed on a single page in N-up printing.

Nevertheless, the outstanding Action has cited Parry, Shea and Wong as curing the deficiencies of Cocotis and Miller with regard to these features.

Parry describes a printing system which includes a barcode. However, Parry does not describe or suggest that the printing condition includes at least one of a sheet size, a printing quantity, a black and white/color printing selection, a reduction ratio and a quantity of pages N, the quantity of pages N corresponding to the number of pages to be placed on a single page in N-up printing.

Shea describes a method for using bar code data parsed from a legacy print stream to facility electronic processing. Further, Shea describes that a barcode can include a page number portion 211 which identifies a page number of a page. Further, the bar code may include a page total 212 indicating how many pages are in the mail piece to which a particular page belongs.

However, Shea does not describe or suggest that the printing condition includes at least one of a sheet size, a printing quantity, a black and white/color printing selection, a reduction ratio and a quantity of pages N, the quantity of pages N corresponding to the number of pages to be placed on a single page in N-up printing.

The outstanding Action asserts that the page total 212 of Shea corresponds to the quantity of pages N recited in Claim 1. Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion. Specifically, Claim 1 recites that the quantity of pages N corresponds to the number of pages to be placed on a single page in N-up printing. This is not equivalent to a page total as is described in item 212 of Shea. Nothing in Shea describes a number of pages are to be placed on a single page in N-up printing and nothing in Shea describes information controlling how many pages are placed on the page in N-up printing.

Moreover, Wong does not cure this deficiency of Cocotis, Miller, Parry and Shea.

Thus, for at least these reasons, Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Cocotis, Miller, Parry, Shea and Wong.

In addition, Applicants note that Claims 11 and 19 while differing somewhat in scope from the above discussed Claim 1, also patently distinguish over the combination of Cocotis, Miller, Parry, Shea and Wong, at least, due to the fact that these claims recite sending back said identification pattern to the user terminal, the identification pattern including information concerning a storing place of the electronic file.

In addition, Applicants note that newly added Claim 19 also patentably distinguishes over the combination of Cocotis, Miller, Parry, Shea and Wong based on the fact that Claim 19 recites that the identification patterns include information concerning a storing place of the electronic file and information concerning a storing place of a printing condition of the electronic file. Such a configuration is not described or suggested in any of the cited references. Moreover, such a configuration provides the advantage that a printing management system with such a feature produces identification patterns having a reduced volume of information stored therein, thus reducing computation time.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and similarly Claims 11 and 19, and claims depending therefrom, patentably distinguish over Cocotis, Miller, Parry, Shea and Wong considered individually or in any combination.

Consequently, in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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